THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS'

MILLENNIAL STAR.

[ESTABLISHED 1840.]

"If you are sure of omnipotent aid, what can be too heavy for you? Begin the day joyously and let no shade of doubt come between thee and the eternal sunshine."—C. H. SPURGEON.

No. 37, Vol. LXXIV. Thursday, September 12, 1912. Price One Penny.

CONVENTION OF CONFERENCE PRESIDENTS.

(*Concluded from page 567.*)

The evening session commenced at 8 o'clock by singing, "Zion stands with hills surrounded." Prayer by President Amos R. Cook.

President Clawson called for the report of the committee appointed at the opening session to consider some further necessary rules to govern the labors of the elders in the British mission.

President Thatcher C. Jones said the committee recommended that ten hours a week, or forty hours a month, be the minimum time for tracting; but that, if possible, an effort should be made to reach fifty hours.

After considerable discussion, on the question being put, the recommendation of the committee was unanimously approved.

On the suggestion of the committee, a resolution was adopted to the effect that the conference presidents emphasize with their elders the importance of early rising and retiring, that they may bring to their work a freshness and vigor that will ensure success.

The committee also recommended that two columns be added to the weekly and monthly report blanks—one to be headed "Hours study," and the other "Miscellaneous hours," entries under the latter to be explained in the "Remarks" column.

President J. Eugene Lichfield (Newcastle) spoke of the benefit he had derived from the preceding convention. Dwelt at some length on the violent and continued opposition the elders had encountered in the Newcastle conference, and particularly in the town of Sunderland. As a result of the agitation, their meetings were well attended. They had more investigators than ever before.

There were eight branches in the conference, and in five of these the elders had been mobbed. Since last convention there had been thirty baptisms. The number of tithe-payers had increased. On account of the bitter feeling in some places, it was impossible to do any tracting. They had lately been working in the outlying districts. The saints could do a great deal to help the work along by inviting their friends to attend the meetings. They formerly held eight or ten street meetings a month throughout the conference. A good start had just been made this spring when the agitation began. They made a comparison each month of their report with that of other conferences, and found the same to be helpful. In Sunderland their windows had recently been broken on ten different occasions, and twice the crowds had forcibly entered the building. On some occasions it was estimated by the papers that ten thousand people were assembled in the vicinity of their meeting place. The daily press and the better classes were opposed to the persecution. In all branches where they had trouble much investigation had resulted. He felt well in the work. The elders were firm and true and perfectly united. Persecution, instead of injuring them, had brought the elders and saints closer together and made them all the more determined to do their duty. Their testimonies had been strengthened as a result of the experiences through which they had passed. Prayed that they might all be enabled to live up to the requirements of the gospel.

President Clawson said the meeting had been a very profitable one. He had listened with interest to the recital of what the elders and saints had recently gone through in Sunderland. He had been reminded of some similar experiences in the life of the Apostle Paul. The whole course of events was a great testimony to them all. He felt to congratulate President Lichfield and the elders of the Newcastle conference on the brave stand they had made for truth and their rights. They had reflected honor on the British mission. It is very essential that the elders and saints stand for their rights and prove valiant for the truth. The conference presidents stand at the head of the work in these lands. They had found that the Lord was with them in their labors. Invoked the blessing of the Lord upon President Lichfield for his faithfulness. He and others who had stood firm and valiant would always remember with pleasure the experiences through which they had passed. President Jones, of the Irish conference, had also done a good work and been a faithful servant of the Lord. "I bless him," continued President Clawson, "in the name of the Lord, for his faithfulness and devotion to the cause of truth. It is a grand privilege to be associated with these men. We hold the keys of salvation to the people of this nation and the power to bestow the gift of the Holy Ghost. We are messengers of the Lord. It is wonderful the power of the Priesthood we hold. We do not com-

prehend or appreciate the authority it confers upon us. It is the power by which the worlds were created and are controlled."

In conclusion, President Clawson said, "I have rejoiced in the meetings of this day. Each succeeding convention brings us a little closer together. I believe there is no division amongst us. May the Lord bless you. May His peace go with you. May He meet with us again to-morrow, that we may continue to rejoice in His goodness and power forever, is my prayer."

Singing, "Praise God from whom all blessings flow." Prayer by President James B. Walkley.

The meeting adjourned to reconvene next morning.

The closing session of the convention opened at nine o'clock on Wednesday morning. Singing, "God speed the right." Prayer by President Joshua E. Salisbury. Singing, "Be it my only wisdom here."

The hearing of reports from the conferences was resumed.

President Amos R. Cook (Norwich) said he had enjoyed the meetings very much. He had often desired to know how things were done in other conferences, and had gained much useful information from the reports of the presidents. The elders in his conference were good, faithful men, and were doing their duty. They were united in their labors and the work was progressing. There had been twelve baptisms since April, and others had applied for the ordinance. He urged the importance of members of the Church having their children baptised. The gospel revealed to them the sacredness of family ties. The elders had during the summer been working in the country districts. Most of the saints were tithe-payers. The meetings were very well attended. They had many investigators. The branches were all in a good condition. Following the anti-"Mormon" shows, there had been opposition in some places. They had been distributing Church literature to those who attended the shows, and as a result their meetings were much better attended than before. On account of opposition they had been unable to hold many street meetings. More friends were made through "socials" than in any other way. He felt well in the work and was doing his best to advance its interests. Prayed they might all be blessed and prospered in their labors.

President Thomas S. Wheatley (Nottingham) said he had been much benefitted by hearing the ideas and experiences of the presidents at the preceding conventions. The Nottingham conference is in a good condition. They had not met with much opposition in their labors there. The elders had been working in the country districts during the summer. They followed up friends and investigators, and had been able to do more good in that way than in any other. It was very important to get the goodwill and confidence of the people. They had not held many street meetings this summer. As a result of misrepresentations in the papers the street

meetings were disturbed, and it was thought better to discontinue them. A good feeling prevailed among the elders. The saints are living their religion as a rule. They pay a fairly good tithing. Being a colliery district, the recent strikes had affected them somewhat. He felt well in his work as a missionary. Had enjoyed the society of the presidents, this being the fifth convention he had attended. His missionary experience had benefitted him more than any school he had ever attended. His testimony of the gospel had been strengthened, for he had seen the results that followed obedience to its principles. He was glad his parents had gathered to Zion and given him the privilege of being raised there. Prayed that the blessings of the Lord would be with them as they returned to their respective conferences.

President Peter S. Condie (Scottish conference) said he had learned many things at the convention that would be helpful to him in his work. The instructions of President Clawson had encouraged him to greater diligence. He rejoiced in the gospel of Christ. Was glad to have the privilege of coming to these lands to lift his voice in its defence. The elders in the Scottish conference are good, energetic men. In Glasgow there is a great advantage in tracting, on account of the people living closely together. The elders are well received as a rule. Many street meetings are held, and they usually have good crowds. The saints are very faithful. Many of the people have never heard the gospel. The hall meetings are well attended by investigators and strangers. There is a disposition in Scotland to give fair play to all religions. The main work of the missionaries is to get the gospel before the people. Great will be their joy if they succeeded in bringing even a few souls into the way of life and salvation. They should buckle on the armor of faith and get the spirit of their mission. If they would all do so, they would have much joy and satisfaction in their labors, and be enabled to accomplish much good.

Singing, "To-day while the sun shines."

President Alma L. Riggs (Sheffield) expressed his pleasure at meeting again in convention, where they could get each other's ideas and receive counsel from an apostle of God. The Sheffield conference is in better condition than it was six months ago. The elders are diligent and feeling much encouraged in their work. He enjoyed their support and confidence and tried to keep in close touch with them. Had encouraged them to take healthful exercise, which makes them feel better. They were visiting the saints and encouraging them to do their duty. As a result, they were coming to meeting better than formerly. They had now good meeting rooms in all the branches. They had written some letters to the newspapers, which had done much good. He had visited and tracted in all the branches. The elders in his conference are always ready to receive and obey instructions. The saints are feeling well and trying to live their religion. He had

endeavored to locate every family whose name was on the books. He desired to magnify his calling, and prayed that he and all the presidents might be enabled to do so.

Elder Fred R. Woolley considered it a privilege to meet with the conference presidents. As he had to correspond with them all, he was desirous of becoming personally acquainted with them. There were some facts connected with emigration matters he would like to mention. In the case of elders who are released, some of the presidents entertain the idea that when a release is issued, the booking of the elder released naturally follows. Such is not the case. Arrangements must be made with the Liverpool office for the booking of elders just as in the case of emigrants. Some elders write to the Liverpool office themselves regarding emigration matters. It would be better for the conference presidents to attend to all such business, and to make arrangements for both elders and saints. Declarations should be sent in more promptly. In some cases they do not arrive until the elder does. They should be at the office ten days before date of sailing. It is better to send them in when the bookings are made. Some elders and emigrants neglect to sign the declaration. The signature is the most important part of the document. He would like the presidents to indicate whether emigrants are members or non-members. Where some in a family are members and some are not, it is usual to treat all as members. In all cases ages should be given in applying for bookings, as their ages will sometimes admit of two children being put in one berth. If declarations were properly filled out and sent in at first, this would be made clear. Emigrants must in all cases have the amount of landing money required by law and guarantee papers should be in the possession of all, as they have thereby a better chance of being admitted to the United States. Returning elders must have their ministerial certificates on their person for inspection during the journey homeward.

Elder Hugh Ireland was pleased to be present at another presidents' convention. He had enjoyed the spirit of the meetings and felt that they would be productive of much good. He wished to remind the presidents of the claim the *Millennial Star* had upon the support of the elders and saints of the British mission. It was a useful medium of information and instruction, and they could render it still more effective for good by securing new subscribers, thereby widening its sphere of usefulness. He invited suggestions and asked for their co-operation to this end.

Singing, "Nay, speak no ill."

President Clawson said they had now been together in four sessions. He thought they would be able to close with that meeting. He had rejoiced exceedingly in the spirit of the meetings. There were a few matters to which he desired to call attention. When there was a falling off in any line of work or duty, a little agita-

tion at once effects a change. When the facts are recognized, and they begin to put forth greater efforts, there is an immediate improvement. At one time in the history of the Church its financial condition was not quite satisfactory, because the law of tithing was not being properly observed. President Lorenzo Snow saw where the defect was and determined that it must be overcome. A tithing crusade was instituted throughout all the stakes of Zion. There was an immediate awakening to the necessity of yielding obedience to this law of the gospel. The result was that the Church was placed on a secure financial basis and has continued so ever since. This is an example of what can be done in other directions. There is at the present time a necessity for emphasizing the law of tithing. Many of the saints are not obeying this principle as they should. Some have not been properly instructed concerning it. He wanted the presidents to see that the saints of the British mission were instructed as to the necessity of obeying this important principle. Their record as to this matter ought to be improved, and if they were earnest and united it could be done. Members should be instructed in this law even before baptism, for those who reject it are not worthy to be called Latter-day Saints. It appeared that a good deal of the elders' time was occupied in visiting the saints. Our great mission in these lands is, of course, to preach the gospel and convert the people. But the saints must be looked after and instructed in their duties. Such visiting should be done in the spirit of the gospel, and not merely to pass time. The elders should visit as teachers. He approved of President Riggs' plan of visiting every member whose name is on the branch records, and would encourage others to do the same thing. The saints should be taught to have their children baptised when they are eight years old. This is an important duty and, if neglected, the parents will be held responsible. The Liverpool office had for some years been cashing the checks of the elders on home banks by sending in turn Liverpool office checks or purchasing and sending them local money orders. This had been done for their convenience, but the practice had become very burdensome. So much of the mission secretary's time was taken up with this work that a change must be made. He would like to get the views of the presidents upon this important subject.

Following some discussion, it was moved and seconded that after 1st November, 1912, the practice of cashing elders' checks at the Liverpool office be discontinued. The motion was carried unanimously.

President Clawson, continuing, said that it is most essential to follow up those who are friendly and disposed to investigate the gospel. It is a good thing to furnish each elder with a report of the work of his associates. It leads them to compare their records with those of others, and stimulates to greater efforts. The holding of social meetings is to be encouraged, as it is a good way of

bringing the saints and friends together. On account of the popular prejudice to dancing in these lands, it should be discouraged, as it is contrary to instructions.

In conclusion, President Clawson said: "I feel that this convention has been eminently successful, for the reason that it has been thoroughly practical. The time at every meeting has been well spent. We have had no eloquent speeches, but we have done some good, practical work. Many important matters have been spoken of and dealt with. I feel that we have all been blessed and benefitted as a result of meeting together. I esteem it a blessing and a privilege to be called to labor and associate with you in the ministry of the gospel. I know your singleness of purpose in this work. As presidents of conference and president of mission we can be a great help to each other. One thing causes me to rejoice exceedingly. I feel and know that we are perfectly united in our work. You would have to go a long way to find as many men who are equally united. It is the spirit and authority we possess as servants of the Lord that have done this. I feel that I can see into your hearts as clearly as into your eyes. I know your faithfulness. I love you with my whole heart. I rejoice in your fellowship and your support. We are following the injunction of the Savior when He said: 'Love one another.' The Lord will surely bless our labors because of our unity. Good will come out of all the persecutions to which we are being subjected in this land. Our testimonies of the gospel are being strengthened. I rejoice in the spirit of persecution. It proves we are not of the world, but of God. There were different opinions as to the amount of tracting that ought to be done, but our views were finally harmonized, and we unanimously agreed upon a certain plan. That decision must stand until it is rescinded by the same authority that adopted it. It is a rule of the Priesthood, when a decision is made by a majority, it becomes the decision of the whole. This principle must be recognized. Some of you—Presidents Jones, Salisbury and Wheatley—will not meet with us again in convention. One of these brethren has been released and the other two will be, before another convention. I hate to give you up. I will never forget you because of the work you have done. As an apostle of Jesus Christ, I bless you. May you be blessed and prospered in all things, with your wives and children. I know the Lord will bless you all because of your diligence and faithfulness in His service. He will lift you up and prosper you, and guide you by His Holy Spirit throughout your lives. May the Lord sanctify this convention to the good of all present, and to the elders and saints of this mission, I humbly pray, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen."

The convention was brought to a close by singing, "God be with you till we meet again." Benediction by President Rudger Clawson.

THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS' MILLENNIAL STAR.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 1912.

EDITORIAL.

MINISTERS ADMIT RELIGIOUS DECLINE.

THE restoration of the gospel in these latter days would have been unnecessary if there had not been a universal apostasy. For eighty years the elders of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints have declared that there was a departure from the true faith of the gospel, and that Divine authority is not possessed by any of the churches of modern Christendom. That declaration is absolutely true and fully sustained by the clearest historical and scriptural proofs. When confronted by the sweeping arraignment, it is customary for modern Christians to claim that the gospel has continued on the earth from the time of its first establishment. It is true that some of the most eminent historians and theologians have admitted that error and corruption prevailed in the various churches for many centuries. In these days, however, it is customary for the ministers and champions of the various sects to unite in a denial that there has been either an apostasy from or a restoration of the true gospel. But occasionally some of the more earnest and independent of them, looking the facts calmly in the face, recognize the fact that there are many and irresistible evidences of spiritual decay. Some remarkable admissions have been made recently by eminent ministers and laymen belonging to different sects as to the waning influence of their respective churches. Such significant testimony, from leading ministers of modern Christendom, sustains and confirms what the Latter-day Saints have always taught as to an apostasy from the true faith and the necessity of a Divinely authorised and inspired ministry.

The British Congregationalist of October 20th, 1910, gave an extended report of the Autumnal Assembly of Congregationalists. One of the topics under discussion was, "Is the church losing her hold upon men?" Mr. Tom Wing, M.P., introduced the question, and is reported to have said as follows:

"The church does not stand where it did. The churches have passed through a very trying ordeal of thirty years' scientific, biblical criticism, and this has altered the church's attitude to the people and the attitude of the people to the church. Men no longer fear hell, and heaven itself has not got the charms for the

masses of the people that it once had. The churches have met with a new difficulty. The sociologist comes along and repeats what Carlyle thundered and what Ruskin in sweeter accents expressed, that the condition of the people must become the first order of the day. Now the church has no direct answer to the sociologist, because the church has stood for moral and religious ideals."

In the discussion that followed the Rev. David Walters, of Leeds, expressed himself as follows:

"I have heard it said over and over again: 'When you preachers of religion decide among yourselves what we ought to believe, we shall be ready to listen.' It is not a mere excuse; it is the expression of weariness with uncertainty. Different preachers not only contradict one another, but very few of us, if any, preach with that accent of assurance which carries conviction. We cannot make the people believe more, or more deeply and strongly, than we do ourselves. We do not know where we are. Hesitation is never inspiring. I believe that we shall get out of this period of uncertainty, and that God will raise up in His own time, when conditions are favorable, another Paul or Augustine or Calvin, who will interpret for us our great gospel in terms that will be real and convincing to the modern mind. It will be a newer theology than anything we have yet had, and yet it will be recognized as the old. The hearts of men will leap in response to it, and will say: 'This is true. This is what we have been waiting for,' and we shall all preach it with a consciousness that we are in line with all the faithful preachers of the past, and yet that we preach in language that is understood by the present generation."

In a sermon preached in Westminster Abbey, on Sunday, November 19th, 1911, the Rev. H. Mayne Young is reported in the *Eastern Daily Press*, of November 26th, as saying:

"Every age has a right to and demands as good and as clear statements about religion as possible, and they must be in the shape of current coin. Too often our pulpit paper is openly discharged and fails to find a market even at a reduction. As for our defaced and worn out gold, it is refused at any price. If the church cannot coin afresh as the currency wears out, the clergy are no better than doctrinal bankrupts. In that case, closed doors and suspended payments are the only alternatives left to the establishment. The day is not far distant when, unless the Church of England freely restates and remodels her creeds, so as to meet the requirements of the age, she will be left stranded on the shores of time, while the tide of this modern life will leave her even further and further behind. * * * a sad warning of the inevitable results of an iron-bound system of worn-out dogmas and lifeless traditions."

Even the Bishop of Liverpool feels compelled to admit that the church he represents is lacking in power and needs a "re-discovery of God." In a sermon delivered at the Holy Trinity Church, Southport, on March 20th, 1912, he said:

"The Church at present seemed almost overmatched by the power of darkness. Sometimes it seemed as if the darkness was gaining on the light. What was the cause of this strange paralysis that had befallen the Church? He believed that the Church needed to-day a re-discovery of God; he believed that the Church was weak to-day because God was so distant, so unreal, so dimly seen. To-day they saw the results of that dim vision of the distant God. They saw on all sides unsettlement in the faith, slackness in the spiritual life, men losing their grip on those great and vital truths which made Christendom what it was, refusing to face the sceptre of the mind, content to drift and leave things in suspense, and and the weak, unworthy spirit was beginning to affect our whole national life."

Such admissions as the foregoing by prominent clergymen of the leading churches of to-day should impress every thinking mind with the fact that Divine authority and inspiration are not possessed by the several churches to which they belong. In this respect they are not inferior to any of the other sects of modern Christendom, none of whom can show any evidence of a higher endowment. One minister, as quoted above, declares that the different preachers contradict each other, and that few, if any, of them preach with that assurance that carries conviction. His frank confession: "We do not know where we are," shows that there is a conscious lack of Divine light and guidance. The bold, outspoken words of the Rev. H. Mayne Young are deserving of special attention, where he says: "As for our defaced and wornout gold, it is refused at any price. If the church cannot coin afresh as the currency wears out, the clergy are no better than doctrinal bankrupts." The Latter-day Saints have always taught that an inspired ministry is absolutely necessary in the Church of God. If the Spirit of Truth, that was promised by the Savior to His Church, were possessed by these modern clergymen, there would be no danger of their ever becoming "doctrinal bankrupts." It is not a "newer theology" or a "recasting of creeds" that is needed, but the authority and inspiration of God. These are not possessed by the churches of modern Christendom, as is clearly evident from such statements of their eminent preachers as we have given. The elders of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints testify that the Lord has spoken from the heavens in this age and restored His truth and authority to the earth. Instead of "wornout creeds" we have the restored gospel of Christ, and in the place of "doctrinal bankrupts" an authorized Priesthood, to whom the Lord reveals His mind and will as He did in former times.

H. I.

BIRMINGHAM WINDOW-SMASHER CONVICTED.

WE referred briefly in the last issue of the *Millennial Star* to some rowdyism that had occurred in Birmingham. President Albert T. Smith of that conference furnishes a little more light on the subject. Under date of September 4th, 1912, he wrote as follows:

"I have just returned from Court. Our case was heard at 11 a.m. The man who broke the windows was convicted and fined ten shillings, also five shillings for damages and twelve shillings for costs of court, making a total of twenty-seven shillings. The magistrates could not agree on a conviction for the other two defendants, so they were released. Mr. Willison, our attorney, said there was sufficient evidence to convict one of them and he asked permission to take the case before another magistrate, which was granted.

"We are getting good protection from the police, and I think the conviction of this man will have a tendency to stop the rowdyism. Our anti-'Mormon' friends (?) are still holding meetings, and are endeavoring to stir up the people against us, but they are being watched very closely by the officers, and I was told by the police sergeant that they have been warned against creating any disturbance. If they still persist in fomenting the spirit of agitation and violence, they will be locked up. As a result of the present disturbances our meetings are better attended by the saints as well as by investigators. We are all well in Birmingham at the present time, and are gaining many friends through these troublesome experiences. Among a certain class of people the feeling towards us is very bitter, but we are getting the sympathy and some support from the more intelligent and influential citizens."

Lovers of justice will be pleased to know that the Birmingham officials are taking a firm stand in these trying times and manifest a determination to see the law enforced, that the Latter-day Saints may be protected in their rights.

The "Mormon" missionaries, like all other people, hold themselves amenable to the law, and are ever ready and willing to answer for their lives and conduct in Great Britain, but they stoutly protest against persecution and violence. They are entitled to be heard and should be accorded fair play and justice.

RUDGER CLAWSON.

MINUTES OF NOTTINGHAM CONFERENCE.

ABOUT one hundred and fifty saints and friends were present at the opening session of the semi-annual conference held in Cobden Hall, Nottingham, on Sunday, September 8th, 1912, at 10:30 a.m. President Rudger Clawson, of the European mission; Elder E. Taft Benson, Mission Secretary; President Albert T. Smith, Elders Joseph H. Davis and D. Murray Davis of the Birmingham confer-

ence; Elders Isaac C. Wood and O. B. Thurgood of the Sheffield conference; President Thomas S. Wheatley and eighteen traveling elders of the Nottingham conference were also present.

Invocation by Elder Wilford C. Brimley.

President Thomas S. Wheatley welcomed all to the conference and expressed his pleasure at seeing such a good representation of saints and friends at the opening session. He asked all to give the speakers their faith and prayers, and hoped they would have a time of rejoicing.

Elder John J. Whetton said that no man has the right to preach the gospel of Christ and administer in its ordinances unless called by prophecy and the laying on of hands by those who have received Divine authority. Testified that the Priesthood, which is the power of God delegated to man, has been restored to the earth in these days.

Elder Orval L. Thomas spoke of the need of repentance in the world to-day. Said it would be useless for us to ask God to forgive us if we declined to forgive those who trespass against us. We should not procrastinate the day of our repentance until death draws nigh, for we shall all be held accountable for our deeds.

President Albert T. Smith rejoiced in the testimonies borne and in the beautiful singing of the choir. Spoke of the need of brotherly love and kindness in the world, and said if any man hated his brother he had not the love of God in his heart. It was love that caused God to give His only begotten Son to redeem the human family. It was love that inspired the Prophet Joseph Smith to lay down his life for his brethren and sisters. Bore testimony that his Redeemer lived and that the gospel was true and Divine.

Prayer by Elder Arthur T. Henson.

The afternoon session commenced at 2:30, with an increased attendance. Prayer by Elder Isaac C. Wood.

The sacrament was administered by Elders Laurence M. Brown and John W. Haslam.

President Thomas S. Wheatley felt gratified to see the hall so well filled. In speaking of his labors during the past twenty-six months, he said he had learned many things from the English people which he wished to emulate and hoped to profit by his experience among them. Bore an earnest and impressive testimony that Jesus is the Christ and that Joseph Smith was truly a prophet of God. Exhorted the saints to live their religion, and asked investigators to seek earnestly for a testimony of the truth of the gospel.

Elder E. Taft Benson had never found anything degrading in the doctrines taught by the Latter-day Saints. We have learned that "the glory of God is intelligence," and are striving to become perfect even as our Father in heaven is perfect. Illustrated by a parable showing that the mansion we build shall be our inheritance in the eternal world.

President Rudger Clawson had been greatly strengthened by the

testimony of the elders and inspired by the excellent singing of the choir. Spoke pointedly on the principle of tithing. Said it is as much a principle of the gospel as any other. We have no right to choose which principles we shall obey; God gives the command and we must render obedience. He has given us health, strength, wisdom, and many other blessings; to the saints He has given the guiding companionship of the Holy Ghost. Have we nothing to give to Him in return? The Lord has promised to bless and is blessing all who pay their honest tithes. Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and the people of God anciently paid tithes to the Lord. This law was observed in the time of Christ, and should also be kept by the Latter-day Saints.

Prayer by Elder Washburn C. Hunter.

The evening session commenced at 6:30. The hall was crowded to overflowing. Prayer was offered by Elder Thomas E. Winegar.

Elder Thomas F. Hardy showed the sacredness of the laws of God, and how all things are governed by law. Said the Holy Ghost is the teacher of the Godhead and that by His tuition we could learn all things, "yea the deep things of God." This gift is received through obedience to the laws and ordinances of the gospel. A just critic would not judge "Mormonism" until he understood the principles of that faith. Bore a strong testimony to the truth of the gospel.

President Rudger Clawson spoke of the integrity and faithful labors of President Thomas S. Wheatley and released him from his position. Said his work was accepted of the Lord. All joined in giving him a hearty vote of thanks for his diligent work.

Elder Thomas E. Winegar was unanimously sustained as president of the Nottingham conference. On accepting the position, Elder Winegar said he realized the importance of such a calling. It had ever been his desire to promulgate the gospel and respect the call of authority. He knew that in order to be successful the Spirit of God must be with a person in that position, and asked the saints to sustain him with their faith and prayers.

Conference Clerk Wilford C. Brimley presented the general and local authorities, who were unanimously accepted. The labor and statistical report of the conference for the past six months was also read.

President Rudger Clawson said the gospel is a orderly plan by which God proposes to redeem His children. Spoke of the perfect order of the planets in their orbits. Whatever God does is governed by law. In His orderly plan of redemption He has made certain requirements; because we cannot understand why He made them is no reason why we should disregard them. We cannot understand many things in science, but the evidence is so abundant that to reject them as untrue would be considered the height of folly. Spoke impressively upon the first principles of the gospel and the resurrection, and showed that as Christ had

power to raise Himself from the grave, He holds the keys and the power to raise all mankind.

President Thomas S. Wheatley thanked those who had helped to make the conference so successful and, in conclusion, urged all present to give their support to President Thomas E. Winegar.

Benediction was pronounced by Elder E. Taft Benson.

The singing of the conference choir, under the leadership of Elder Arthur P. Henson, was soul-inspiring. Besides a number of the songs of Zion, the following anthems were pleasingly rendered: "His promise true," "Let the mountains shout for joy," "I was glad," "Song of the redeemed," and "Nearer, my God, to Thee."

The Relief Society, under the direction of Sister Mary A. Harrison, kindly accommodated the visitors with luncheon and "tea."

On Saturday, September 7th, 1912, President Rudger Clawson met with the elders in Priesthood meeting and a very instructive service was held. In the evening all were entertained in a social, a special feature of which was a short sketch entitled, "Sleeping Beauty," rendered by the Sunday School children of the Nottingham branch.

WILFORD C. BRIMLEY, Clerk of Conference.

FROM THE MISSION FIELD.

Change of Address.—The headquarters of the Nottingham conference have been changed to 13 Goldswong Terrace, Nottingham.

The headquarters of the Swiss and German mission have been changed. Communications should now be addressed to Hyrum W. Valentine, Rheinlander Str. 10 1, Basel, Switzerland.

Baptisms.—A baptismal service was held in the sea at Cambois, Blyth (Newcastle conference), Friday, August 30th, 1912, when two souls were added to the Church. The ordinance was administered by Elder Louis L. Allen; confirmed by Elder Haworth Roberts.

On Sunday, September 1st, 1912, at Canal Cottage, Malpas, near Newport (Bristol conference), a baptismal service was held, when five members were added to the Church. Elder H. R. Thomas officiated.

Releases and Departures. — The following named missionaries have been honorably released and sailed for home September 6th, 1912, per s.s. *Tunisian*. From Great Britain—Coulson Rich, D. A. Matheson, O. Rega Card. From Scandinavia—John H. Evenson, Jacob W. Olsen, George A. Petersen. From Switzerland and Germany—Ezra T. Benson. With the company were thirty-one emigrants in charge of Elders Ezra T. Benson, D. A. Matheson and O. Rega Card.

President Thatcher C. Jones, of the Irish conference, has been honorably released, and, in company with his wife, Sister Vera H. Jones, sailed for home September 7th, 1912, per s.s. *Lusitania.*

Sunday School Outings.—On Saturday, August 17th, 1912, the Ipswich Sunday School (Norwich conference) met at the Ipswich dock at 10 a.m., where they took the boat and sailed down the river Orwell to Harwich, fifteen miles from Ipswich, then walked two miles to Dovercourt, and there enjoyed the remainder of the day, lunching and playing games on the sands.

On Thursday, August 22nd, 1912, the Grimsby branch Sunday School (Hull conference) held its annual outing at the beautiful little town of Healing. There were about eighty saints and friends present. All enjoyed themselves at the different games and sports. The older ones had a game of football, which proved the big feature of the day, while the children indulged in various sports. The outing was much enjoyed by all.

Successful Socials.—A farewell social was held in the Latter-day Saints' Church, Ellesmere Road, Sheffield (Sheffield conference), Thursday, August 29th, 1912, in honor of Elder Coulson Rich, who has been honorably released to return home. There was a good attendance of the saints and friends. After the program, which consisted of songs, instrumental music and a talk by Elder Rich, a few games were indulged in. All present expressed themselves as having spent an enjoyable time.

The Burnley branch (Liverpool conference) gave a farewell social on Saturday, August 31st, 1912, in honor of Sister Wilkinson, who leaves shortly to join her husband at Burley, Idaho. About eighty saints and friends were present. A good program was rendered, and some interesting games were played. Sister Wilkinson was presented with a token of love and respect. An enjoyable evening was spent, and all joined in wishing Sister Wilkinson God-speed on her journey.

On Thursday evening, August 22nd, 1912, a successful farewell social was given at Wolsey Hall, Eastville, Bristol (Bristol conference), in honor of President J. E. Salisbury, who has been conference president for the past eleven months; also Elder J. Thurman Smith, who has been conference clerk for nine months, and Elders I. B. Blake and John H. Vaughan, all of whom have been honorably released to return home. A very interesting program was rendered and the evening was enjoyed by all present. Refreshments were served, after which President Salisbury was presented with a gold watch charm and Elder Smith with a gold signet ring, as tokens of esteem and respect from the elders, saints and friends. Elders Blake and Vaughan were each presented with a beautiful carving set as tokens of remembrance. All join in wishing the departing brethren God-speed and a pleasant journey home.

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON FOR THEOLOGICAL DEPARTMENT.

LESSON XX.—PAUL'S FIRST EPISTLE TO THE CORINTHIANS—Written from Ephesus.

Text: I. Corinthians. Lesson setting: Time, place, etc.

Note:—Corinth was a city of "rhetoricians," and "notorious for debauchery, even in the profligate heathen world; hence arose dangers to the purity of the Christian Church at Corinth."

A few principles to be noted:

I. REPROOF OF DISSENSIONS. Chapter I.
1. Called forth by party divisions in the Church.

II. DIFFERENCE BETWEEN WORLDLY WISDOM AND THE SPIRIT OF GOD. Chapter II.

III. WARNING TO CLEANSE THE CHURCH OF INCESTUOUS AND OTHER SINFUL PERSONS. Chapter V.

IV. IT IS WRONG TO GO TO LAW WITH THE BRETHREN. THE SPIRIT THAT PROMPTS SUCH IS WRONG. Chapter VI.

V. REGARDING THE SACRAMENT. Chapter XI.

VI. CHARITY. Chapter XII., XIII.

VII. THE RESURRECTION. Chapter XV.

DIED.

WILSON.—At Tyne Dock (Newcastle conference), August 23rd, 1912, Sister Elizabeth Wilson, aged 54 years; born 1858. She lived and died in the full fellowship of the Church. Interment at Harton Cemetery, Elder Amos Belnap officiating.

HURLEY.—At Bolton (Manchester conference), August 25th, 1912, John Hurley, aged 28 years; born April 2nd, 1884; baptised December 8th, 1910, by Elder L. E. Williams; confirmed by Elder N. R. Pixton; ordained an Elder August 17th, 1912, by Elder P. Z. Hatch. Brother Hurley was a faithful Latter-day Saint, and died in the full hope of a glorious resurrection.

CONTENTS:

Convention of Conference Presidents 577
Editorials:
Ministers Admit Religious Decline 584
Birmingham Window-smasher Convicted 587
Minutes of Nottingham Conference 587
From the Mission Field 590
Sunday School Lesson for Theological Department 592

EDITED, PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY RUDGER CLAWSON, 295 EDGE LANE, LIVERPOOL:

FOR SALE IN ALL THE CONFERENCES OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS IN GREAT BRITAIN.